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Message Text

SECRET

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53
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
---------- 032759
R 181050Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8934
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

S E C R E T KATHMANDU 2923

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, NP, US, PFOR
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS SMUGGLING

RESBC A) KATHMANDU 2692; B) STATE 153341

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF REF B AMBASSADOR RAISED ISSUE OF HASHISH SMUGGLING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KARKI ON JULY 17. STATING THAT HE HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON, AMB SAID THAT HE WISED TO RAISE WITH FONMIN OUR CONCERN ABOUT MISUSES OF DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES, INCLUDING POUCH AND FREE ENTRY PRIVILEGES, IN RELATIONSHIP TO SMUGGLING OF DRUGS. AMB INDICATED THIS WAS WORLDWIDE CONCERN BY USG, AS WE WERE INTERESTED IN CLOSING ANY CHANNELS FOR ENTRY OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS INTO US. IN THIS CONNECTION AMB EXPRESSED OUR APPRECIATION FOR COOPERATION OF GON OFFICIALS IN NEW YORK, WASHINGTON AND KATHMANDU IN MELANCON CASE, WHICH WAS APPARENT EFFORT TO ABUSE DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES OF NEPAL'S UN MISSION. IN ADDITION TO MELANCON CASE, AMB SAID THAT WE HAD HEARD REPORTS OF EARLIER SHIPMENTS OF NARCOTICS THROUGH NEPAL'S DIPLOMATIC POUCH AND THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT ANY GAPS IN EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF DEPAL'S DIPLOMATIC POUCHES BE CLOSED.

2. FONMIN KARKI NOTED THAT MELANCON CASE DID NOT INVOLVE USE OF DIPLOMATIC POUCH BUT OF COMMERCIAL AIR AND THAT GON WAS EXTREMELY CAREFUL ABOUT SHIPMENTS IN ITS POUCH. AMB REPEATED THAT WE HAD HEARD REPORTS OF SHIPMENTS THROUGH NEPAL'S POUCH FACILITIES. FONMIN DID NOT COMMENT DIRECTLY ON THIS POINT, STATING AGAIN THAT
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NEPAL WAS EXERCISING TIGHT CONTROLS ON ITS POUCHES AND ASKING THAT

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WE INFORM HIM OF ANY ABUSES WHICH COME TO OUR ATTENTION.

3. AMB THEN QUERIED FONMIN ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR ENACTMENT OF NARCOTICS LEGISLATIO DURING CURRENT SESSION OF NATIONAL PANCHAYAT. KARKI SAID HE THOUGHT THERE WAS GOOD CHANCE THAT LEGISLATION COVERING ALL FORMS OF DRUGS WOULD BE PASED. SOME PROVISIONS FOR STAGED IMPLEMENTATION WOULD PROBABLY APPLY TO GANJA IN THOSE AREAS, PARTICULARLY THE HILL AREAS, WHERE GANJA GREW WILD AND REPRESENTED IMPORTANT, AND FOR PRESENT AT LEAST, AN IRREPLACEABLE SOURCE OF CASH INCOME. AMB REITERATED OUR HOPE THAT BASIC LEGISLATION WOULD BE PASED DURING CURRENT SESSION OF PANCHAYAT.

4. COMMENT: KARKI'S PAUCITY OF COMMENT ON OUR REFERENCE TO REPORTS WE HAD RECEIVED OF NARCOTICS SHIPMENTS THROUGH NEPALESE DIPLOMATIC POUCH NO DOUBT RESULTS FROM HIS AWARENENESS THAT CASES REFERRED TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED TO KING HIMSELF. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE POINT WAS THOROUGHLY REGISTERED BY FONMIN THAT WE KNOW ABOUT SOME PAST ABUSES OF NEPALESE POUCH, ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED, AND EXPECT THESE TO BE STOPPED. THIS SHOULD SERVE TO REINFORMCE GON DETERMINATION TO PLUG THIS PARTICULAR RATHOLE. WE EXPECT KARKI WILL ADVISE PALACE OF THIS APPROACH, WHICH WILL HELP TO PREPARE FOR SESSION AMBASSADOR WILL SEE WITH KING NEXT WEEK, PER KATHMANDU 2692 AND STATE 153341. KARKI'S PROGNOSIS ON BASIC DRUG LEGISLATION WAS MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN OTHERS WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING. AMBASSADOR WILL SEEK CONFIRMATION IN MEETING WITH HIS MAJESTY.
CARGO

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